

FROM POVERTY TO EMPOWERMENT

COLLABORATING TO CLOSE OPPORTUNITY GAPS

Karen R. Schaeffer, Ph.D.



EMPOWERING EDUCATION! FROM HOMELESS TO PH.D.



FROM POVERTY TO EMPOWERMENT

“ We are empowered to the extent that our intellectual, cultural, social, spiritual, political and economic capitals allow us to navigate various social contexts.”

Skelton 2012

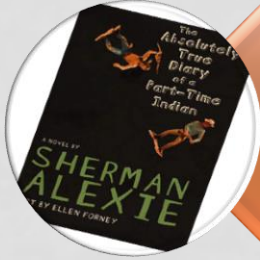


**FROM HEAD
START TO
HONORS
COLLEGE**

COMPREHENSIVE ROUTES FROM HEAD START TO HONORS COLLEGE



**Critically Examining
Assumptions**



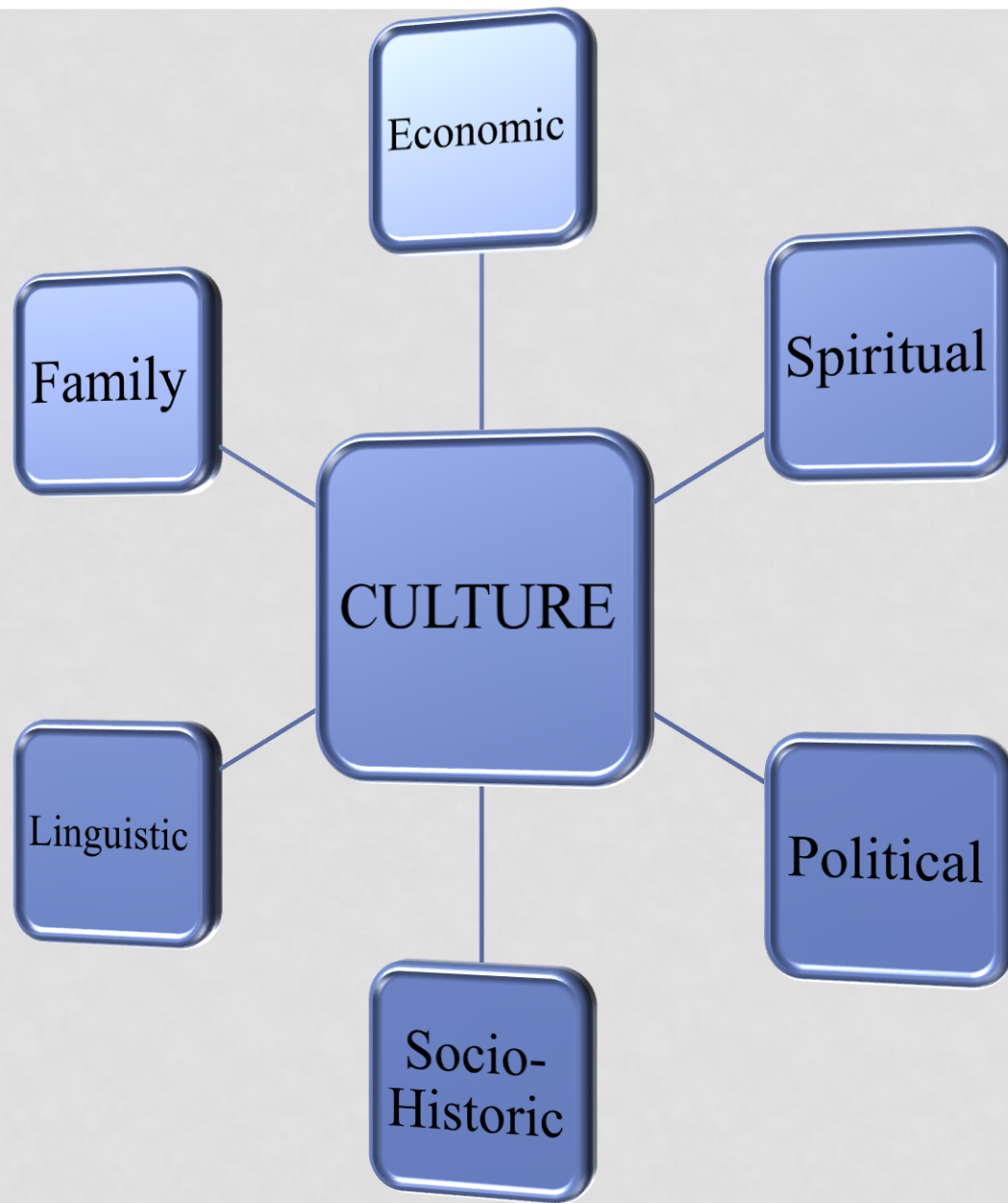
Rewriting The Narrative



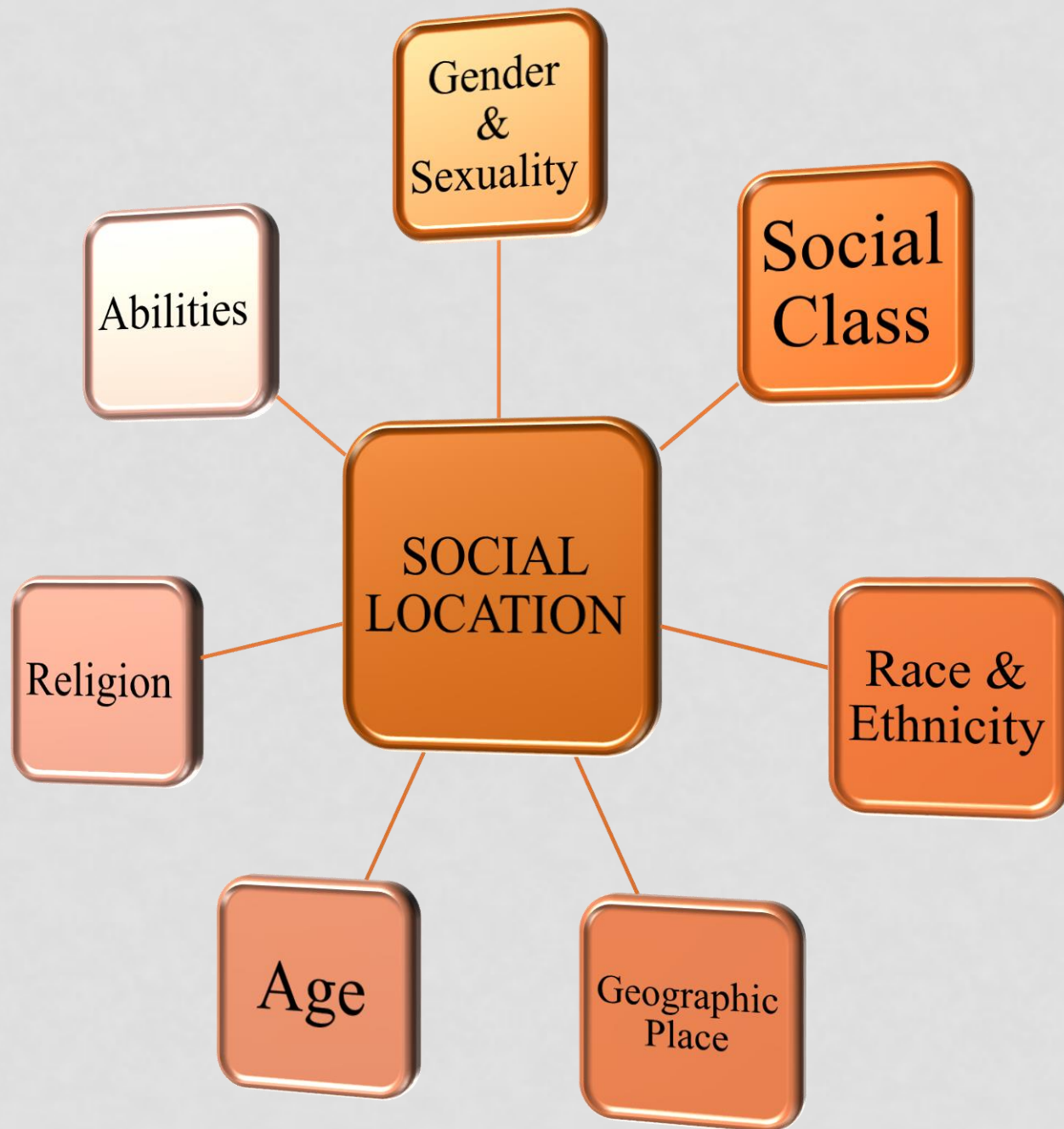
**Collaborating at Micro and
Macro Levels**

EXAMINING THE WHOLE PEAR

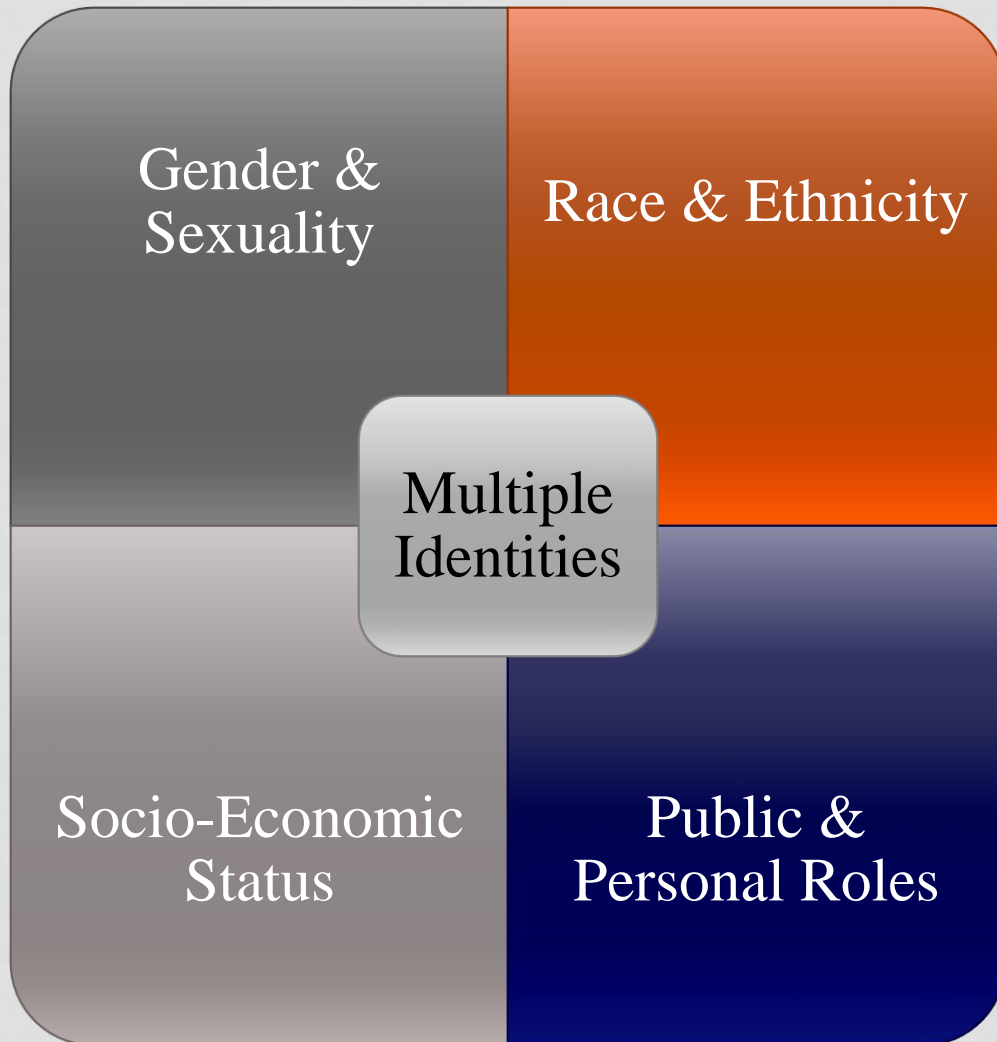




Generationally Transmitted: Beliefs * Values * Customs



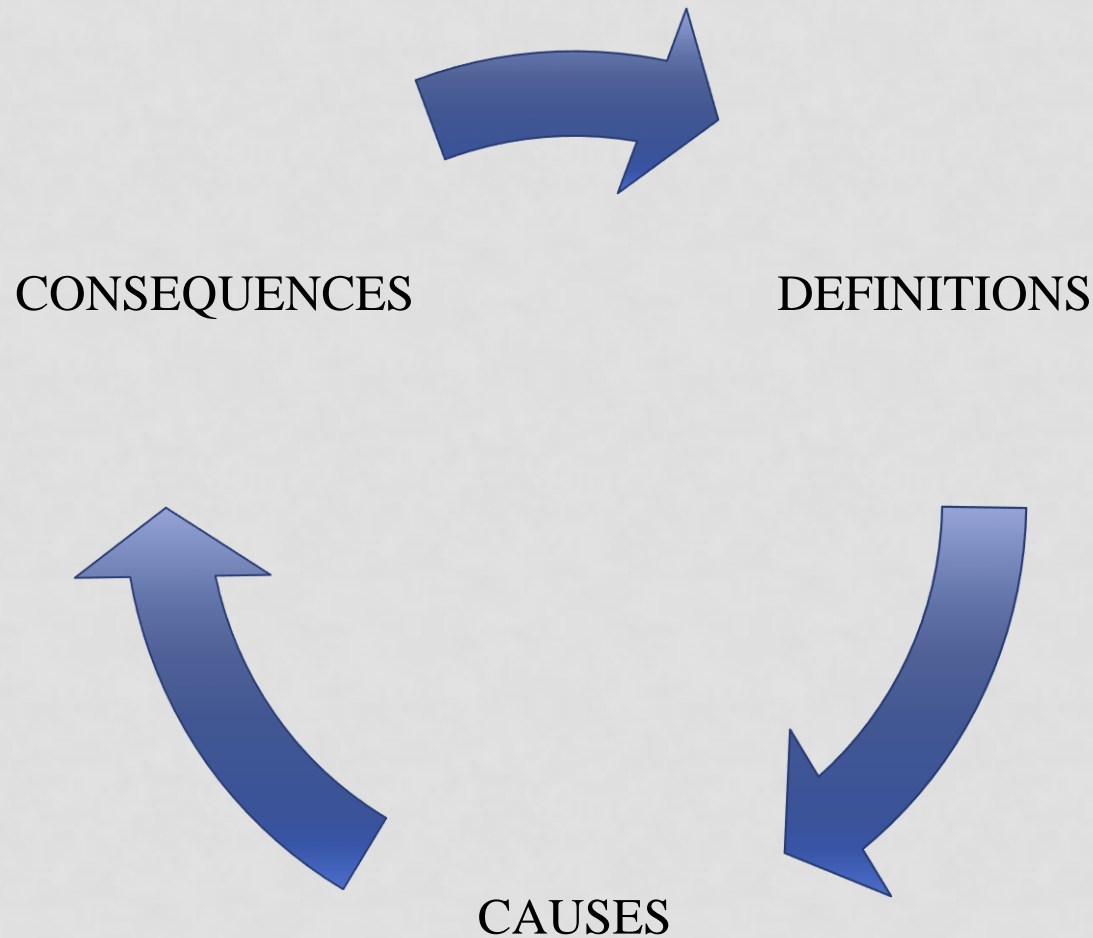
INTERSECTIONS OF IDENTITY



“ The manner in which individuals navigate their multiple and layered identities reflect their experiences and perceptions of sociocultural factors that occur in their daily lives.”

Angela Ferguson

WHAT STORIES HAVE WE BEEN TOLD ABOUT POVERTY?

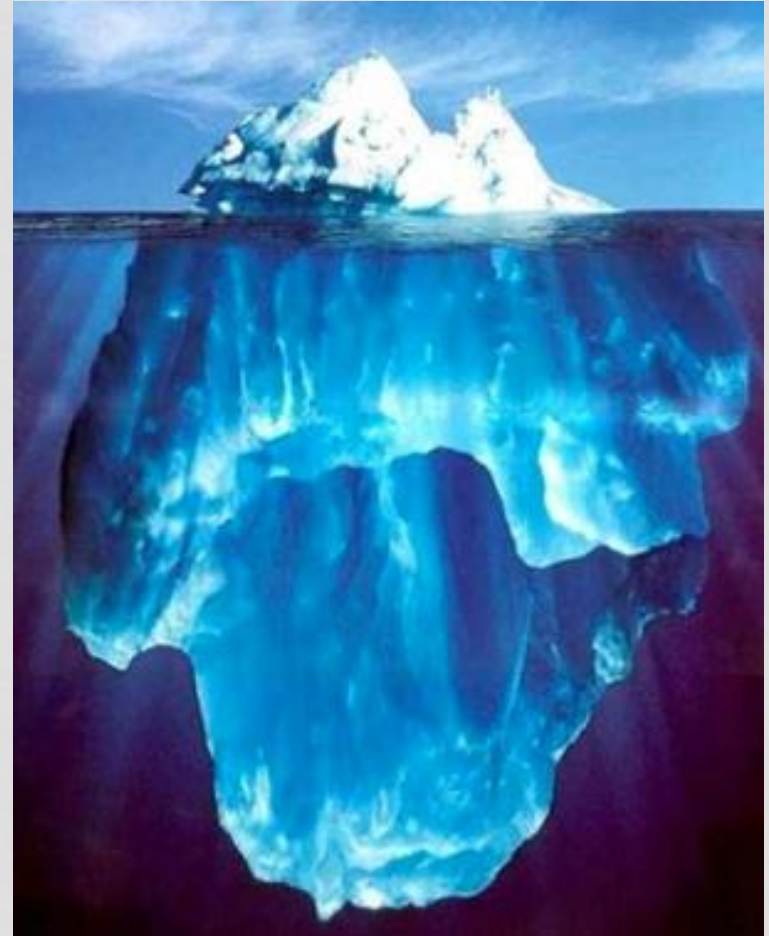


WHAT STORIES DO WE BELIEVE ABOUT POVERTY?

“...unconscious perceptions influence our decisions...our decisions are prone to bias... understand, recognize & act accordingly...”

Renée Richardson Gosline

<http://webcast.amps.ms.mit.edu/spr2015/ICEO/index-12feb2015-vod.html>



NEW STORIES NEEDED TO COUNTER THE DEFICIT NARRATIVE

The “deficit perspective” is an approach through which scholars explain varying levels of opportunity and access (educationally, professionally, and in other spheres) among groups of people by identifying deficits in the cultures and behaviors of the underprivileged group.

CONSEQUENCES OF A DEFICIT NARRATIVE

“When I first started teaching here, that’s what we did to the rowdy ones, you know? We beat them. That’s how we were taught to teach you. We were supposed to kill the Indian to save the child.”

From the semi-autobiographical novel by Sherman Alexie.





Disparities in student outcomes



Disproportionality



Family Alienation



Achievement Gaps



Opportunity Gaps


REWRITING THE NARRATIVE

Mia Birdsong:

**The story we tell
about poverty isn't
true**

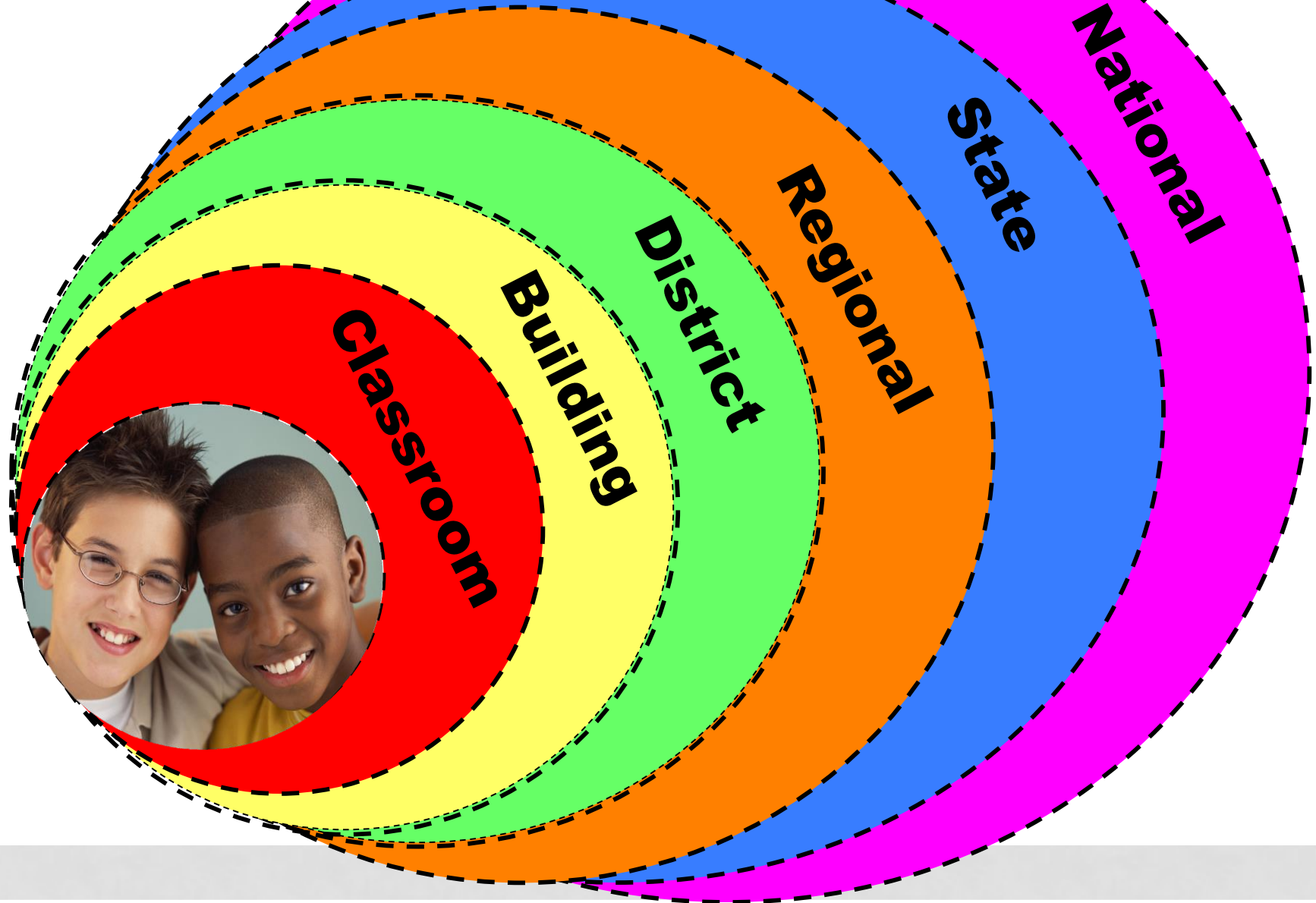
TEDWomen 2015 · 15:16 · Filmed May 2015

Subtitles available in 1 language

 [View interactive transcript](#)



COLLABORATION AT MICRO & MACRO LEVELS



COLLABORATION TO TRANSFORM

People: Students, teachers, administrators, families, community members etc.

Policy: Federal and state mandates, district and school level, classroom policy, etc.

Practice: Pedagogy, discipline, curriculum, etc.

A NEW STORY IN ONE URBAN DISTRICT

Year	Suspensions	Expulsions
2002-2003	12,774	722
2003-2004	15,649	963
2004-2005	1,155	20
2005-2006	322	14
2006-2007	478	10
2007-2008	566	NR

MULTIPLE SCHOOLS IN ONE URBAN DISTRICT

Figure 3.3. Disciplinary Actions per 100 Students for High Implementer vs. Moderate/Low Implementer Elementary Schools

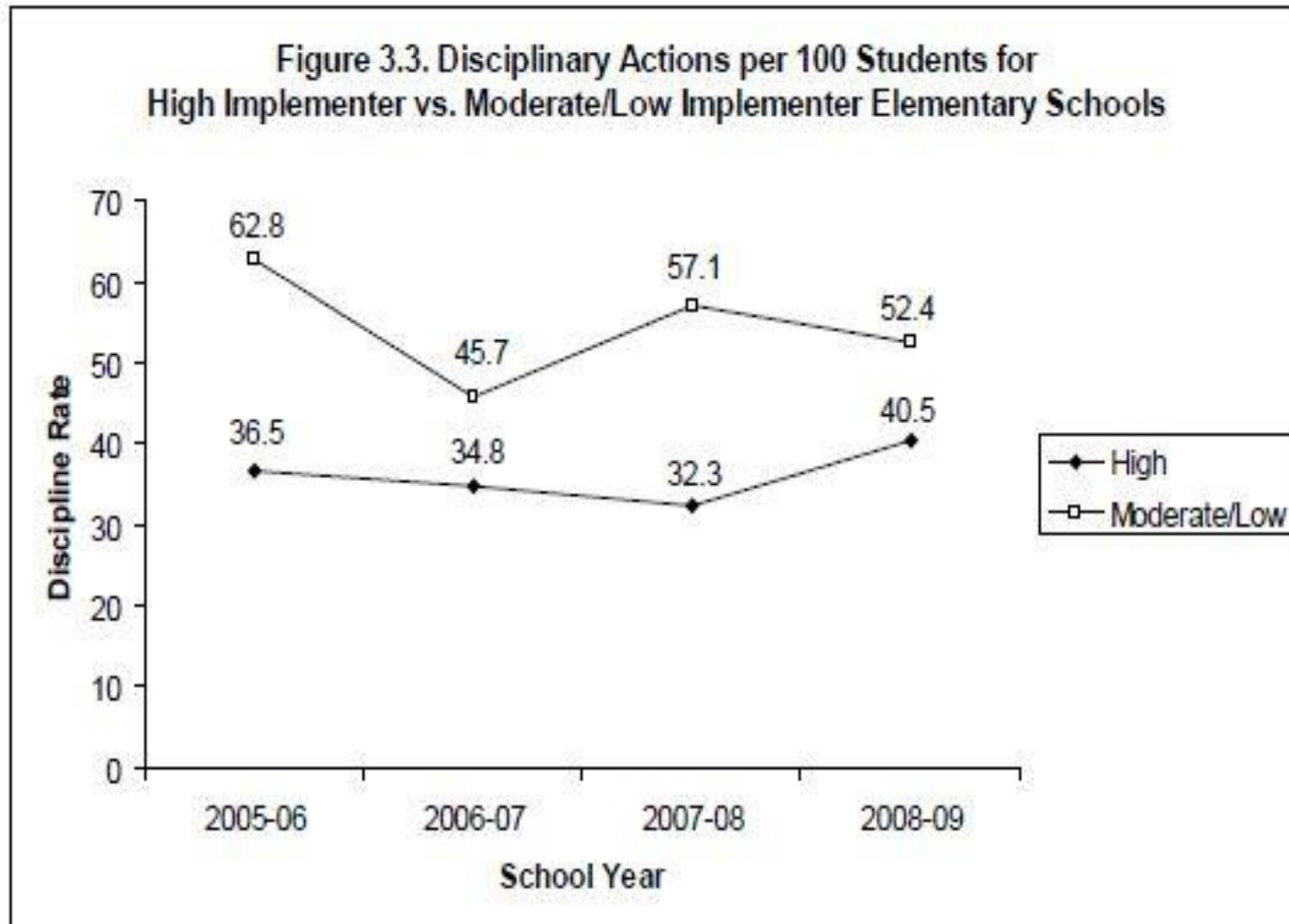
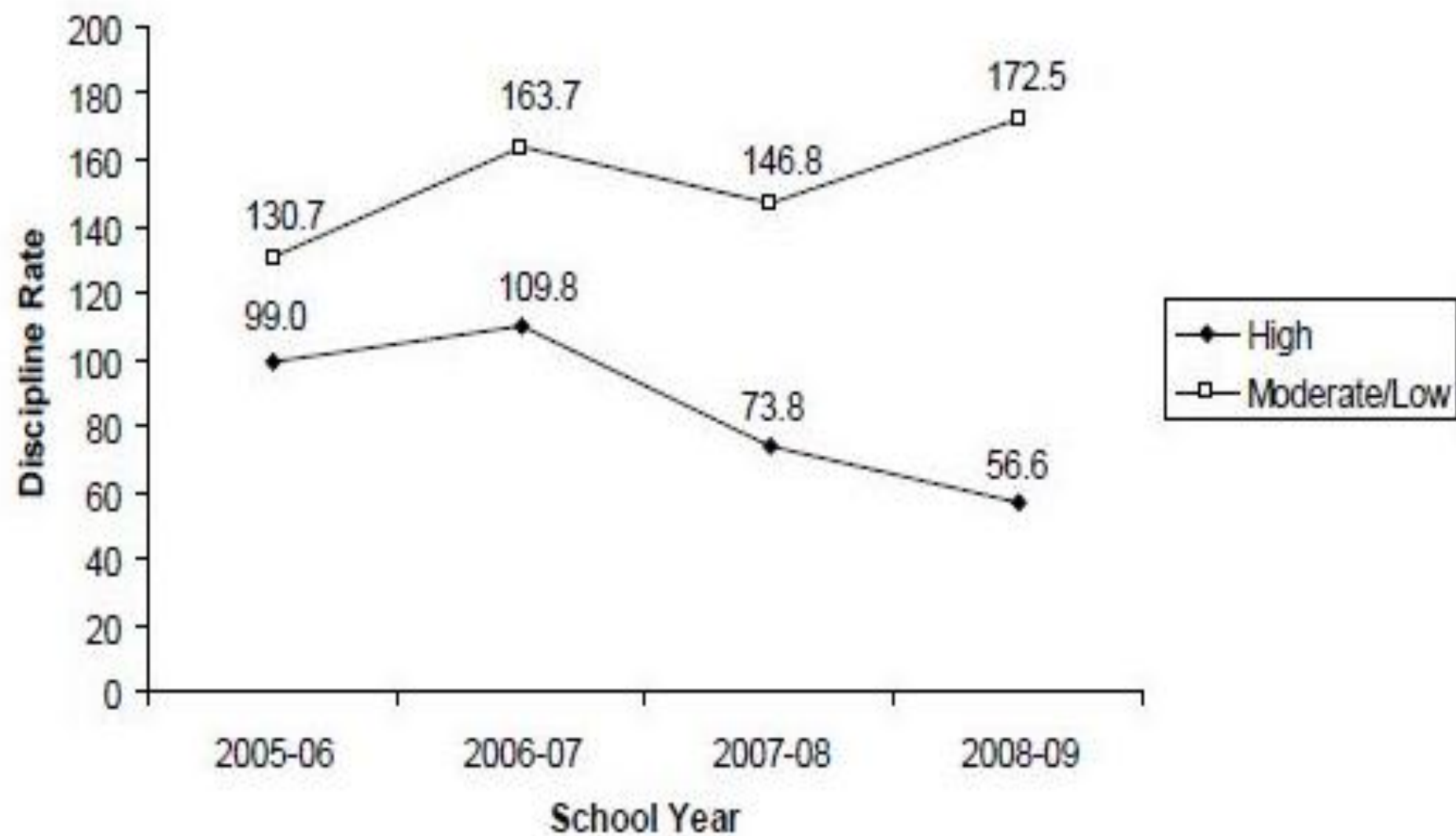
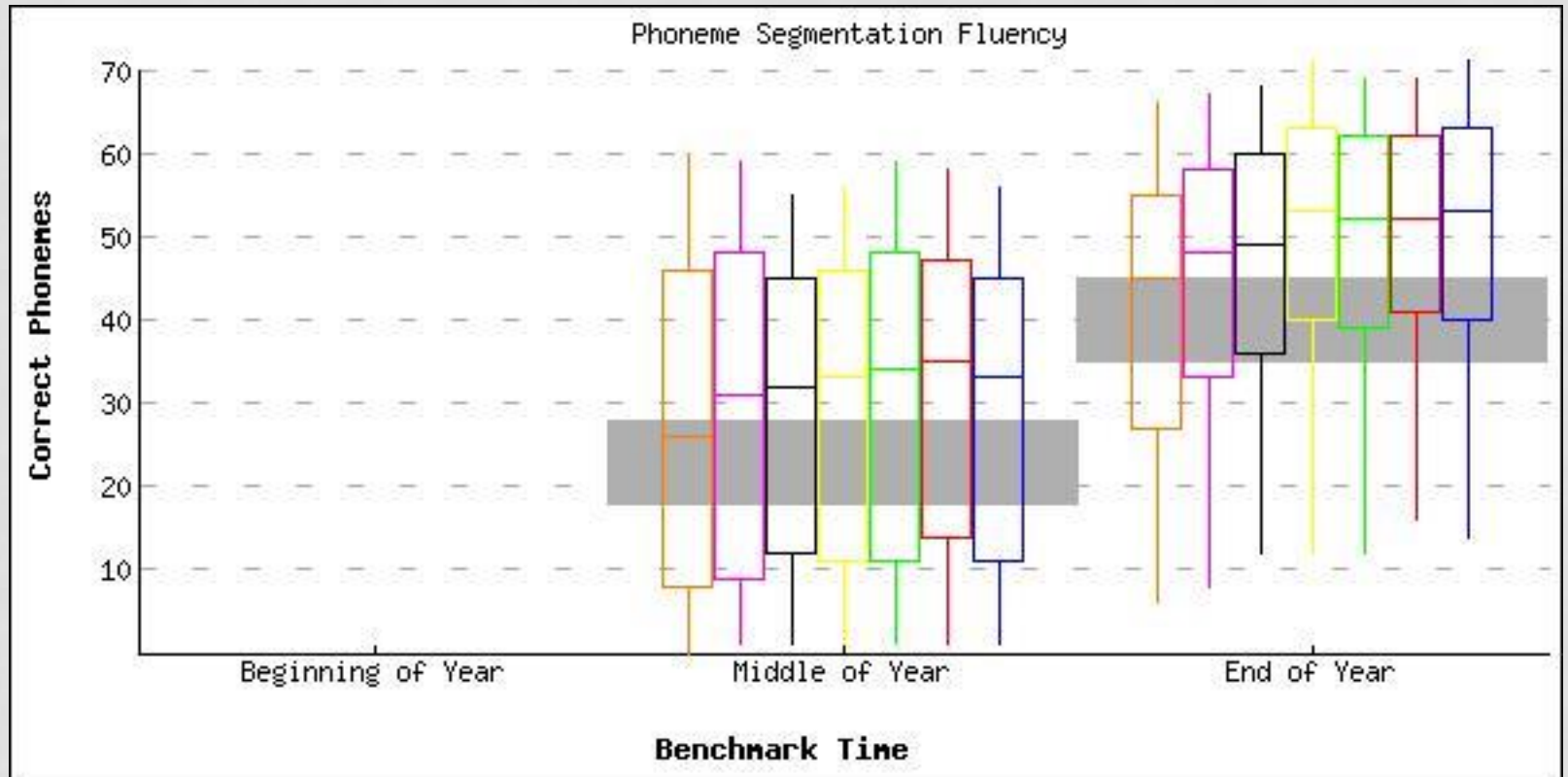


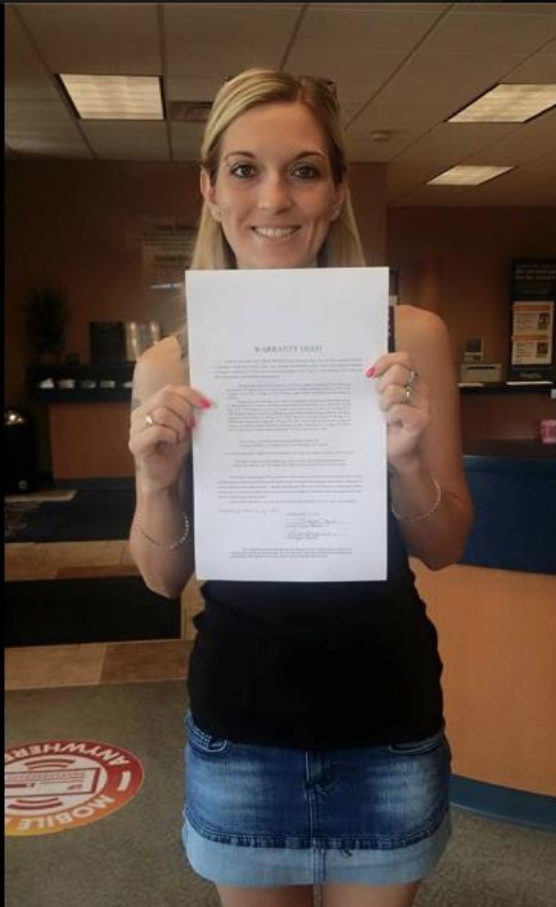
Figure 3.4. Disciplinary Actions per 100 Students for High Implementer vs. Moderate/Low Implementer Secondary Schools



MULTIPLE CLASSROOMS IN ONE URBAN SCHOOL



FROM ~~HOMELESS & HOPELESS~~ TO HOPEFUL MOM & HOMEOWNER



Shannon Norris

July 28 · 1 person

As Of Today, I Never Have To Worry About My Kids' Stability. As Of Today, I Never Have To Worry That Someone Could Come Take Our Home From Us. As Of Today, My Boys Will Never Ever Know What I Knew As A Child... As Of Today.... I Am An Official Homeowner, And NOBODY Can Take That From Me...
#ItMayNotBeTheBest
#ButItsMine
#WorkinOnOurFuture
#MyBoysAreMyReason

Like · Comment · Share

👍 Ronnette Norris, Margie Smith, Paulette Carner-Plymire and 149 others like this.

➦ 1 share

💬 View 37 more comments



Josh Singer Heck yeah congratulations!!!! I'm so happy of the way your life turned around sis!!!! Always move forward and never look back!!!

Like · Reply · 👍 1 · July 29 at 9:48am



Shannon Norris Thanks Brother! I guess we've officially grew up! Came a long way from the C-ville days!

Like · 👍 1 · July 29 at 2:08pm

➦ View more replies

**the story we tell
about poverty isn't
true**

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“Let’s put our minds together and see
what life we can make for our
children.”

Sitting Bull



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